

# ***SPECIAL EDUCATION – BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED***

There are four special education endorsements. This endorsement authorizes teaching blind or visually impaired students. Holders of special education endorsements may also provide consultative services and supportive resource programs, including supplemental instruction, modification and adaptation of curriculum and instruction to students with disabilities in general education programs in grades preschool through 12.

## **1. WHAT TYPES OF CERTIFICATES CAN I APPLY FOR?**

- *Certificate of Eligibility (CE)*
- *Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)*
- *Standard Certificate*

Please read the **FAQ's** if you are not sure which certification you may be eligible for.

## **2. REQUIREMENT: PRE-REQUISITE FOR ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION ENDORSEMENTS**

**A prerequisite for a special education endorsement is an instructional CE, CEAS or standard certificate.** *Military science, preschool through grade 3, and experienced-based vocational endorsements do not fulfill the pre-requisite requirement. Examples of acceptable instructional endorsements are elementary school, English, mathematics, social studies, science and world languages. If you do not hold CE, CEAS or standard instructional endorsement, you must also apply for and receive first a specific instructional certificate when you apply for the special education endorsement. For information about requirements for instructional certificates, return to*

## **3. CERTIFICATE OPTIONS**

- a) To apply for the *Certificates of Eligibility (CE)* in this endorsement:

You must hold an instructional certificate as explained in 2 above; and

Submit the following:

- Completed application for certification or on-line application
- Application Fee: \$150.00
- Official college/university transcripts

- b) To apply for the *Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)* in this endorsement:

**You must hold an instructional certificate as explained in 2 above;**

**Complete an appropriate special education teacher preparation program (described as follows):**

- **A New Jersey program, graduate or undergraduate, approved by the state department of education for the preparation of special education teachers as identified in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-10;**
- **A special education college preparation program included in the interstate certification reciprocity system of NASDTEC;**
- **An out-of-State special education teacher education program approved by NCATE; or**
- **An out-of-State special education teacher preparation program approved by the state department of education in which the program is located; and**

**Submit the following:**

- **Completed application for certification or on-line application**
- **Application Fee: \$150.00**
- **Official college/university transcripts**

**c) To apply for the Standard Certificate in this endorsement:**

**You must hold a standard instructional certificate as explained in 2 above;**

**Complete a state-approved college special education program that includes the special education pedagogy required for this endorsement (as described in d) below); and**

**Submit the following:**

- **Completed application for certification or on-line application**
- **Application Fee: \$75.00**
- **Official college/university transcripts**

**d) Notations**

**Special education pedagogy (21-27 credits) required for this endorsement:**

- **Philosophical, historical and legal issues in the education of students who are blind/visually impaired;**

- **Anatomy, physiology and characteristics of students who are blind/visually impaired;**
- **Standardized and functional assessment of students who are blind/visually impaired;**
- **Strategies and materials for developing literacy and numeracy skills in students who are blind or visually impaired including Braille and Nemeth codes;**
- **Curriculum planning, learning environments, modifications and materials for students who are blind/visually impaired;**
- **Inclusive education practices, positive behavioral supports, communication and collaborative partnerships;**
- **Assistive technology and augmentative communication systems for students who are blind or visually impaired;**
- **Orientation and mobility concepts and techniques; and**
- **Transition planning, program services and agencies available for students who are blind/visually impaired.**